

THEA 101 Intro to Drama

(3 CREDITS | CRN: 62185)

INSTRUCTOR: Taurie Kinoshita
OFFICE: Hale Palanakila 225 – *Please knock! I'm always in!* (Not 138!)
OFFICE HOURS: M | 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
W | 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM
and by appointment
TELEPHONE: (808) 779 – 3456 Please text! Don't be shy! I'm here to help! Texts receive the fastest response (up to two hours, usually instantly!) Emailing and calls are fine too but they can take up to 36 hours for a response.
EMAIL: Taurie@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2018

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Intro to Drama: An introduction to the art of drama and theatre. Students study selected plays that are representative of important playwrights and historical periods. These plays are studied in their historical context and provide a basis for understanding elements and styles of drama. Theatre production will also be explored by considering the functions of actors, audiences, designers, playwrights and technicians. May be repeated up to 6 credits. WCC: DA

Required Activities: Students must see two plays and write about one of them.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

1. Discuss the origin and development of the theatre from its beginnings to the present;
2. Discuss the theatre's influence and importance in human culture;
3. Compare and contrast plays and theatre practices from different time periods and cultures;
4. Analyze the artistic choices and techniques used to transform a written dramatic script into a performed work presented to an audience.

COURSE CONTENT

Concepts or Topics

1. Critical analysis of the Fine Arts, especially theatre
2. Narrative storytelling
3. Theatrical production elements: design, acting, directing
4. Theatrical styles and contexts
5. Critical thinking about current artistic debates
6. Theatre's unique ability to reflect each specific society it evolves from

Skills or Competencies—Students will:

1. Increase understanding of human culture.
2. Develop prodigious powers of concentration
3. Effectively express themselves individuals in social situations.
4. Sharpen critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze objectively.
5. Develop a greater understanding of history and how it relates to the present.
6. Apply in-class exercises and topics to life and the real world.
7. Integrate harmoniously and work effectively with others.

COURSE TASKS

1. Performance Analysis Paper	30 points
2. Influential Theatre Artist Presentation	10 points
3. Invisible Theatre Project	10 points
4. Participation in Activities, Class Exercises and Discussion	50 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS:	100 points

Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

A (Excellent Achievement) = 100 – 90 points

B (Above Average Achievement) = 89 – 80 points

C (Average Achievement) = 79 – 70 points

D (Minimal Passing Achievement) = 69 – 60 points

F (Failure) = 59 – 0 points

N grade indicates that the student has worked conscientiously, attended regularly, finished all work, fulfilled course responsibilities and has made measureable progress. However, either the student has not achieved the minimal student learning objectives and is not yet prepared to succeed at the next level, or the student has made consistent progress in the class but is unable to complete the class due to extenuating circumstances, such as major health, personal, or family emergencies.

Grades Available

A = 90 or above | B = 80-89 | C = 70-79 | D = 60-69 | F = 59 or below

CR/NC Option: You must have the official CR/NC form signed by the instructor. You must receive a C or higher to receive credit for the course.

**** Extra credit points are possible by seeing extra plays (with instructor's pre-approval.)
Extra credit points can only be used towards assignments.

LEARNING RESOURCES

No Required Text: Handouts made available by Instructor

Course Web: laulima.hawaii.edu (log in using your UH username and password)

COURSE POLICIES

In General:

This class is an introduction to the time honored art of theatre, its origins around the world, and the development of plays and productions from antiquity to our present day.

Taurie's Incredibly Draconian and Downright Cruel Attendance/Punctuality Policy:

There is only one way you can do badly in this class – fail to show up. If you don't come to class you aren't just letting yourself down you are letting your classmates down too.

You will be allowed TWO “free” absences if you are sick or overwhelmed by the tide of life. **No additional absences will be excused for ANY REASON.** Every further absence after your TWO “free” absences will deduct 10 points from your final grade (effectively dropping you an entire letter grade from A to B, or B to C). **SO DON'T WASTE YOUR TWO FREE ABSENCES – YOU MIGHT NEED THEM.** If you do miss a class it is your responsibility to find out what was covered on the day you missed.

You get one free tardy as long as you arrive in the first ten minutes of class – if you are later than 10 minutes you are officially absent, though the instructor may allow you to take part in class if they like (up to the instructor – they may ask you to leave). **The next time you are late (even if it is just 1 minute late) you will be marked absent.**

The Show Must Go On – PERFORMANCE DISCIPLINE:

In the professional theatre world there is only one excuse for missing a performance – death, and even then you must give two weeks notice. **IF YOU MISS AN ASSIGNMENT DAY YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT UP.** Learning to show up for things in life is one of the most important life skills you shall acquire at college.

Participation is crucial:

If you miss a class, there is no textbook to make up the information. This is why attendance is so important. (A grade basically says, “you've learned this much___.” If you are not here to do the learning, the grade needs to reflect this.)

Since 50 % of your grade is based on “participation”, being physically present in class is not enough. You need to participate!

Participation means following the instructions, working on the exercise or activity, being courteous of other classmates.

Of course, everyone has “off” days. If you need a couple passes (because you feel ill, or for whatever reason), quietly and politely let me know, and you can sit in the back and watch (about two classes at the most.)

Allowing a pass is completely up to me. (Obviously, if someone is rude, or just stops participating without politely explaining why, or demands a pass, I will ask you to leave the classroom and you will be marked absent. Remember 3 absences = B, 4 absences = C and so forth.)

Non-Censorship warning

Life is not all happiness, sunshine and rainbows. Theatre reflects life. Therefore, sometimes in this class, we will discuss or explore R-rated topics (WW I, Shakespeare, etc.) Since this is college, and not high school, this is normal: education often involves learning about unfamiliar concepts or ideas you are personally opposed to. If anything comes up that you personally dislike, look at it as an opportunity to practice putting aside your own emotions and work on objective critical thinking—another crucial life skill = theatre skill! Historically, censorship is fundamental to oppression. Censorship inhibits education, and destroys tolerance and democracy because it stops people from speaking freely. Our country protects freedom of speech and artists for very good reasons. If you cannot handle R-rated subjects (war, crime, adult language and situations), then this is not the class for you. (These subjects are typical for college...)

Classroom Etiquette:

Our classroom space is sacred. We will create and bring about wonders here. To that end, you must leave your other worries and life preoccupations at the door. Do not bring them in this place of play, freedom and creation. Smartphones and the constant invasion of the virtual world upon all aspects of our life are my nemesis and most hated foe.

- Our class will be a cellphone-free zone – **you will turn off your cellphones and put them with your belongings in a cubby hole as you arrive and take them only when class is concluded.** Fear not. I promise your texts and facebook notifications will be waiting for you one hour and fifteen minutes later.
- *Constantly* leaving class for bathroom breaks is not acceptable. Please kindly use the restroom before or after class!
- Respect one another at all times. Any disrespect of your classmates will *not* be tolerated and will result in your ejection from class for the day (which will then count as an absence, effecting your grade). The work we do is collaborative; if any of us feel uncomfortable, none of us can achieve excellence.

The Superhuman Powers of Theatre (Theatre Skills = Life Skills)

Theatre is a paradox. Actors rehearse, but they need to act as if they are experiencing something for the first time. Actors care about the audience liking the show—but when they are onstage, they have to not care and just go for it.

In Theatre and life and this class:

- Be honest, yet be civilized and polite. (Theatre is a Social Art Form, communication is crucial—but communicating with respect and professionalism is equally crucial.)
- Play creatively and have fun with the exercises, yet follow instructions precisely.
- Be proactive and try and solve problems imaginatively, but please ask questions!
- If you don't understand a different viewpoint or idea, try and find a similarity in your own life. (Understanding other perspectives is vital for theatre—and life.)
- The only difference between people who are good at what they do, and people who aren't, is *the people who are good at what they do keep getting better and keep improving.* There's always more to learn—keep learning and never feel bad about not knowing something. *A mistake is an opportunity to learn!* You're here in college to make wonderful mistakes and learn from them and improve continuously. (The philosopher Socrates was considered the wisest man in Athens because he was the only man who admitted he knew nothing!)

FINAL CAVEAT EMPTOR:

If at any time during the semester you have any questions, criticisms or suggestions, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor so that your suggestion can be evaluated and acted upon. I am here to help, so let me know if there is a problem in-class that is affecting your ability to work. Also, in life, those of us who show up and express ourselves often find the world is fairly easy to shape to our will, and our destinies are ours to command.

Helpful Resources:

I encourage you to ask me questions about the class and to ask for clarification at any time. Please ask for help even though you are not sure you need it.

One of the best resources on campus is the **TRiO Student Support Services (SSS)** office, which provides tutoring and a range of other opportunities to eligible students. The contact number for TRiO SSS is 235-7487.

The **Writing Center**, located in the WCC Library and Learning Commons, provides in-person consultations during school hours and email feedback as needed. Contact writing center staff by email at wccwrite@hawaii.edu. The center's current hours are posted at <http://www.wcc.hawaii.edu/Writing/>

Texting and communication:

Communicating with students is my top priority. To that end, please text if you need to reach me urgently. Texting is the best way to reach me and my preferred method of communication. If you text me, it will take me up to two hours to respond—usually, though, I can respond instantly. Emails and calls are great too! However, due to working non-stop on theatre 7 days a week, emails and calls can take up to 36 hours for a response. If you do email, please try and use your school account!

Please check your hawaii.edu account on a regular basis. I will send email announcements to that account only. Instructions on forwarding your hawaii.edu account are here: http://windward.hawaii.edu/technology/Forwarding_UH_GMail.pdf.

Please write grammatically correct emails, using complete words and full sentences (no shorthand, such as “where r u now”). Start with a greeting (Aloha Bob, Dear Mr. Smith, or Hi Lance), and end with a signature (Thank you, Sincerely, or just your name). Get in the habit of writing professionally. This will benefit you greatly in life.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Ākoakoa 213 for more information.

[WCC Mental Health and Wellness Counseling](#)

Karla Silva-Park, Mental Health and Wellness Counselor, LMHC, NCC
Office: [Hale Kako‘o 101](#)

Email: karlas@hawaii.edu

Phone: 808-235-7468

Summary:

Since this is a lot of information, here are the most important basics:

- 1.) Don't miss class and participate with a professional attitude!
- 2.) Do not miss the assigned performances (the dates will be announced soon!)
- 3.) Always ask questions and keep me in the loop, contact me anytime—I am here to help! (Texting is best and fastest!)

If you do these things, you will have fun, enjoy great success and learn a ton!

(Art must) "Axe the frozen sea within us" -Kafka

"If you are not going forwards, you are going backwards"

-Stanislavsky

"There is no maxim, wisdom, joy, tragedy not found in theatre" "Theatre should instruct, inspire, entertain" "Abhinaya – 'to carry/performance' - performance is carrying meaning to the audience" –Natyasastra 11:16 and 30:31

"The opposite of courage is seeing the right thing and not doing it"

-Socrates (and Confucius)

"Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it."
- Augusto Boal

WHY STUDY THEATRE?

Theatre is FUN!

Theatre is the only truly social art form: everyone needs to be working their hardest for the best possible show!

Theatre is the only art form which encompasses ALL art forms: visual art (costume design), poetry and literature, dance and movement, architecture, music, and even film!

Theatre relates to virtually every single academic discipline: from psychology to history, from communication and speech to philosophy and religion!

The learning NEVER stops! With each new project you learn something new! Perhaps you begin working on a play about a physicist? You get to learn about physics for the show!

Theatre teaches you discipline and professionalism: you must attend each class or rehearsal—not for the sake of yourself but for the sake of your classmates and fellow actors!

Theatre encourages team-work and ensemble skills: great theatre cannot exist without every single person involved contributing a positive spirit and supporting each other!

Theatre teaches life skills: interacting successfully in a group and working with others, listening, imagination, confidence, public speaking skills, memory and more!

Theatre is about understanding and accepting rather than judging.

Theatre is about faith and trust in the team, the people you work with, the show, and your community.

Theatre is quality over quantity: millions of people may see a film and forget it the next week; in theatre, the connection you make with each audience, each night, is often unforgettable.

COURSE POLICIES CONTRACT

I have read through and reviewed the above Course Policies and the entire THEA 101 syllabus. By signing this document, I acknowledge not only that I understand the policies and

requirements of this course, but also that I understand the consequences of not following these policies.

Signed: _____ (date)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Preferred Name _____

Preferred Phone _____

1. What do you hope this course will teach you? What are your goals in this class?

2. How can I help you meet these goals?

3. What do you intend to do to meet them?

4. What grade would you be satisfied with in this course? Why?

5. What else would you like me to know about you?

PLEASE WRITE SOMETHING YOU LEARNED TODAY BELOW.